

**REMARKS**

**I. Formalities**

Applicant notes that the Examiner still has not indicated whether the Formal Drawings filed on January 27, 2000 are accepted, as requested in the Amendment filed on September 3, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge and approve the aforementioned Formal Drawings.

**II. Status of the Application**

By the present amendment, claims 106-114 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 73, 75, 77, 78, 93-105, and 115-116 are all the claims pending in the Application.

The present amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**III. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 73, 75, 77, 78, 93-105, and 115-116 are allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that this application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of non-elected claims 106-114. By the present amendment, claims 106-114 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that this Amendment addresses all the issues identified by the Examiner and, therefore, the present application is in condition for allowance.

**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

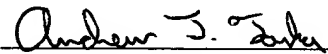
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
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